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REPLY TO MEMORANDUM OF 22 NOVEMBER 1954

1. Page 1, numbered paragraph 2:

a) By "processing" of lexical material is meant:

(1) The carding of the lexical items or words, together with the appropriate digital coding, to insure correct selection by automatic translation.

(2) The establishing of the most usual equivalent for a given source item on the basis of research in actual translations.

(3) The establishment of as many equivalents as possible for a given source item with the appropriate coding.

b) It is proposed to take as a working basis the material already in hand for the English-Russian -- Russian-English military dictionary. This material consists of limited technical and scientific terminology in several fields. The determination of what specific technical or scientific fields are to be the object of more exhaustive research, coding, and carding is subject to the decision of the sponsors and the director of the project.

c) The six original syntactic operations are basic. It is anticipated that each of them may call for from ten to twenty additional sub-rules for broader and more specific search and arrangement.

2. Numbered paragraph 3:

By "doing translation mechanically" we mean that the material will be processed (selected, coded, and carded) for automatic handling by a machine, either an existing computer or an instrument to be designed later.

3. Numbered paragraph 4:

There is human intervention in establishing transliteration, but this is a physical and not a translating intervention. Moreover, the

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development of the art warrants the anticipation that in the reasonably near future, about two years, an electronic scanner may accept cyrillic characters.

4. Page 2, paragraph headed "Tests":

The cooperation of [redacted] will remain available to [redacted] but its technical advice and the use of the instrument cannot be expected free of charge. 25X1A5a2

5. Page 3, numbered paragraph 5:

If "equivalence frequency" studies are available, the material will gladly be utilized.

6. Paragraph headed "Corollary Research":

No reduction could be effected, since eliminating the corollary research would simply mean that the funds would be expended exclusively on the processing for Russian into English. It is estimated that if corollary research is authorized, roughly ten to fifteen per cent of the total amount of funds would be allocated to this area.

7. Page 6, paragraph headed "Objectives and Results":

The words will include the "core language" material. It is believed that the proportion should be, in the event seven thousand words are processed, four thousand words of the core language and three thousand from the technical and scientific fields. The microglossary lists have not been established. Certain lists may be available from other people who have done research in the field, but it is not believed that they are in areas of interest to this project (brain surgery, for example).

The paragraph is purposely indefinite. There is not enough "prior art" information to justify categorical commitments. The estimates of seven thousand lexical items and some (see above) seventy syntactic operations may be exceeded. It is also conceivable that the actual results will fall short of the target. In research of this character it would be, in the opinion of the writer, unrealistic and deceptive

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to advance definite promises. The only assurance that can firmly and unequivocally be given is that the work will be pursued with diligence and competence. Moreover, a clear safeguard exists in the provision for the participation of the coordinating committee in the planning and development of the research.

5. Page 7, paragraph headed "Coordinating Committee":

By "consultative control" the writer intended to distinguish the prerogatives of the Government members of the committee from those of the director of the project. The latter would remain in executive control of the project. This proposal is to insure that the person in executive control will have the benefit of the consultative guidance of the sponsors of the project, if it is approved.